Dear Howard, 9/5/72

Your mailing that included the return of the copy Gary sent me of the inventory, the page from the ABC show with Connally and a few other clips came today. Thanks. There was also a mailing from Dick, one with carbon to you and several handwritten notes. I've answered. Carbon enclosed.

It is too bad that when someobc like Connally is questioned and the response will go to a large audience there is never anyone who can ask the right questions. Donaldson, by the way, asked Mitchell a tough one today. Stopped him so that Mitchell, to get time to think of an answer, after a visible pause, asked him to repeat the question. He can be persistent, but is there substitute for fact and knowledge, and how can the average even good reporter become expert?

The story on Rose Kennedy's fear is not new. I think her fear goes back farthur than this clip indicates. Can you blame her?

You may not like the letter to Lesar enclosed. I've had so much - just can't take any more of that stuff. Yet I can not get out because I know they'll blow it if I do. And it is our obe live chance as long as Ray lives. The overwhelming incompetence is almost as hard to live with as the sick egos which keep them from consulting me when they should and then they make messes - have to straighten out. This, in turn, endears me even less. It is a really vicious cycle. It is bad enough to have to waste so much time without having in addition to take abuse.

When you are here, by the way, that Stanton file will give you a good exercise of a kind I don't think you can duplicate in the Commission material. It is of about 40 interviews with witnesses by a couple pf hack cops called investigators. The reports are models of incompetence at best. However, with what you should remember of the case it should provide you with an interesting exercise in seeing if you can put a case together, which is quite different than tearing one down. You have seen my description of it. So I won't give you further clues just in case you want to try it.

Grotesque came today. Please tell me the total cost, including the mail, and I'll send you a check. Thanks. It is something I suppose I should have. I also suppose I should read it because people in his position sometimes drop things the significance is lost upon them. He is said to have spent much time with Shaw. Don't know when I'll get to reading it. Another Harboro catalogue came today but I'm afraid to look at it!

I have an envelope addressed to Sylvia with carbons of two letters to you and of the one to Cyril. I'm half way afraid to send it without some kind of reading on not only how she is but how she is taking it. It occured to me after I addressed the envelope and was about to mail it that this thing might be pretty tough for her, sort of an emotional set-back. I don't want to contribute to anyt such thing, even involuntarily. So, until I hear, it will just wait. If I'd thought of this earlier I might not have sent what I did. I though only on other terms, that confrontation would be good for her emotionally as well as intellectually and that she sooner she faces it and is out from under any feelings she might have the better off she will be.

I haven't thought much of not hearing anything from the baddies. I don't think I really expected to except maybe from her. In fact, I didn't think about whether they'd answer or not, come to think of it, except in subconscious terms, what I'd do in reversed positions. That isn't valid. Except for what it might do to my thinking about them it really makes no difference anyway. However, when there was the report on TV of the travellers stranded on the charter flight. Lil said, every time it was mention, that she hoped JP was one. She will never forgive either and I fear she'll never forget this experience, beginning with Ned. It is much harder for her.

IRS came up with the affidavit they'd denied me. They sent a letter with it that Lil read. I've not looked at either yet. I guess they'd prefer to stay out of court, too. They appear to have refused some of what I'd asked for. I'll have to go over the file. This is the poore affidavit, I supposed detailing the Gervais thing after he blew them.

In haste,